

For: County Offices

Supplement to Notice CRP-471

Approved by: State Executive Director



1 Overview

A Background

Notice CRP-471 provided information concerning practice certification and status reviews for CRP. The notice was composed based on a May 8, 2002, joint memorandum delineating roles and responsibilities for providing technical assistance (TA) for CRP. The practice and status review process utilizes the previous year's activity to determine the number of practices and contracts to select. The methodology for this process is to accommodate the NRCS TA allocation process. The NRCS allocates TA funds at the beginning of each fiscal year; therefore, NRCS must know the number of practice and status reviews they will be required to do in order to properly allocate TA funds for states.

B Purpose

This notice provides additional guidance to counties on practice certification and status review selections to be completed by NRCS.

2 Compliance Review Selection

A Practice Certifications

Notice CRP-471, paragraph 2, explains NRCS or TSP will complete up to 10% of all practice certifications (AD-862s) for all CRP practices where NRCS has been designated technical responsibility. The 10% selection determination is based on the previous year's practices for the county as identified on the "Summary of Practice for Active Contracts by Program Year" report. The notice then lists practices in priority order to select the 10% in subparagraph 2 C.

The FSA and NRCS STO have agreed that each county will select no less than one practice that must be certified by NRCS up to the maximum of 10% as stated in Notice CRP-471.

Disposal Date:

08-01-05

Distribution:

County Offices

07-28-04

2 Compliance Review Selection (continued)

A Practice Certifications (continued)

Example 1: The County Office has determined from the above report that the total number of practices listed for the previous fiscal year was two. The 10% calculation would result in a number less than one; therefore, one practice certification must be done by NRCS for the current year practices being certified. Note that the county may have a large number of practices being done in the current year but only one is an NRCS required certification. The remaining practices will be certified by the producer.

Example 2: The County Office determined, from the above report, that the total number of practices listed for the previous fiscal year is 70. The 10% calculation would result in seven practices to be certified by NRCS for the current year. The County Office only has ten practices scheduled for the current fiscal year. Seven of these ten practices would have an NRCS certification. There could exist situations where 100% of the practices may be certified by NRCS based on previous and current year activity.

Practices, not selected for NRCS certification, will have practice performance certified by the producer on the AD-862.

B Selection of Practices for NRCS Certification

Once the number of practice certifications NRCS must complete has been made, FSA must determine which practices to select. Counties shall refer to Notice CRP-471, subparagraph 2 C, for priority practice selection and provide the selected AD-862s to NRCS for certification.

C Status Reviews

Notice CRP-471, subparagraph 2 E, discussed annual status reviews for CRP. NRCS will complete no more than 10% of all annual status reviews. The 10% will be based on the number of CRP-1s approved in the previous fiscal year. Status reviews will be conducted only on contracts with a current year effective date. The FSA and NRCS STO have agreed that each county will select no less than one contract for status review by NRCS. The same methodology used in Example 1 and 2 above on practice certifications shall be applied to the status review selection process. However, there is no priority of contracts to be selected for status review. The CED and DC shall work together to prioritize and select the contract that will receive an NRCS status review.

D Previous Status Review Procedure vs. Current

Notice CRP-471 policies changed procedures on status reviews as stated in handbook 2-CRP, subparagraphs 403 B and C. The following chart assists with distinguishing between the previous policies in 2-CRP and the current policies in Notice CRP-471.

2 Compliance Review Selection (continued)

D Previous Status Review Procedure vs. Current (continued)

Status Review Policies	
Current – Notice CRP-471	Previous – 2-CRP, Par. 403 B&C
NRCS completes status reviews on 10% of the contracts with a current year effective date with at least one status review being completed	NRCS completed status reviews on all CRP contracts.
NRCS will only complete one status review on a contract selected for status review.	NRCS completed up to three status reviews on all contracts.
FSA spot checks at least 10% of the contracts with a current year effective date that are not status reviewed by NRCS.	FSA completed 10% spot check of contracts that NRCS had completed the final status review.
FSA shall complete spot checks generated by the automated selection process and ensure at least 10% of the CRP contracts are selected.	Same.
Maintenance inspection shall be completed on an ongoing basis.	Same.
NRCS status reviews and FSA 10% spot checks must be completed before the end of the fiscal year.	NRCS status reviews were to be completed by the end of the fiscal year.
Automated random inspections shall be completed (all contracts) on at least 10% of the farms with CRP.	Automated random inspections shall be completed on at least 10% of the CRP farms where NRCS has completed a final status review.